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2. Consider the points of character revealed in (1) his relations with *Absalom* (contrast the relations of Saul and Jonathan); (2) his relations with *Joab*, his general; (3) his connection with *Ittai* (2 Sam. 15: 19-22); (4) *Zadok and Abiathar* (2 Sam. 15: 24-29); (5) *Shimei* (2 Sam. 16: 5-14; 19: 16-23; 1 Kgs. 2: 8, 9); (6) *Barzillai* (2 Sam. 17: 27-29; 19: 31-40).
3. Consider (1) the varied character of his life as shepherd, minstrel, warrior, free-booter, poet, statesman, prophet, priest (for, though not a priest by descent, he performed priestly functions), king; (2) the contradictory elements in his make-up,—“passion, tenderness, generosity, fierceness;” (3) in a word, the striking feature of his character,—*its many-sidedness*.
4. Compare with him from different points of view other great characters in biblical and profane history.

STUDY XX.—THE TIMES AND REIGN OF SOLOMON. 1 KGS. 1-4;
8-11.*

Remarks: 1. In this “study” let us take up again the method employed in our work upon 1 Samuel.

2. We are approaching the end of an important period. To gain a comprehensive grasp of it, as well as to be prepared to appreciate the period which follows, we must try to preserve the connection between all that has gone before and that which is now to follow.
3. For general reading consult (1) the commentaries on the chapters cited; (2) the article on *Solomon* in Smith's Bible Dictionary; (3) Stanley's History of the Jewish Church, 2d series, Lecture XXVI; (4) Geikie's Hours with the Bible, Vol. III, chs. xiv, xv, xvii; (5) *Solomon, his life and times* (Farrar).

First Step: General Study.

1. **First Reading:** Study (with note-book and pencil in hand) 1 Kgs. chapters 1: 1-11: 43, and write down as you go along, the main points of the story, e. g., (1) David's old age; (2) Adonijah's attempt and Solomon's coronation; (3) David's last charge concerning the law and concerning certain individuals, and his death; (4) the fate of Adonijah, Abiathar, Joab, Shimei; (5) the vision at Gibeon; (6) the two women; [(7) the preparation for and building of the temple;†] (8) dedication of the temple; (9) second vision of Solomon; (10) building of cities, etc.; (11) the Queen of Sheba; (12) troubles which threaten the peace of the kingdom; (13) the death of Solomon.
2. **Second Reading:** Study again, (1) correcting or improving the work done; (2) gaining a still greater familiarity with the material; (3) indicating in connection with each point the verses which treat of it; (4) comparing in a general way the parallel accounts in 1 Chron. 29-2 Chron. 9.
3. **Résumé:** Take up the points or topics one at a time, and, *in thought*, associate with each all the details of the narrative which connect themselves with it. If necessary, read the chapters a third time; but do not be satisfied until the entire material is firmly grasped.

* This “study,” so far as concerns material, follows closely Professor Beecher's “study” on the same subject in THE OLD TESTAMENT STUDENT, Vol. VII, p. 122 seq.

† This will furnish the basis for the study of the next lesson and may be omitted here.

Second Step : Word Study.

[In each chapter there are words or expressions which either (1) are obscure or (2) contain an allusion to some outside historical matter, or (3) refer to some ancient custom or institution, or (4) for some particular reason deserve special notice.]

1. Take up each chapter, in the light of the familiarity with it already gained, and make out a list of such words or expressions ; in doing this, select only the most important.
2. Consult, on this list, such helps as are within your reach. (Perhaps Lumby, *Book of Kings*, 2 vols., Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges, will furnish the needed assistance.)

Third Step : Topic Study.

1. **Solomon's Dominions :** (1) Read Gen. 15 : 18 and note the extent of country originally promised ; (2) Read 4 : 21, 24 and determine with the use of a map the frontiers (cf. 2 Chron. 9 : 26) ; (3) Read 4 : 21b ; 2 : 39 ; 11 : 14-25 and note the character of the relation sustained toward Solomon by subject nations outside of Israel ; (4) Why did Israel never gain full possession of the promised land ?
2. **The Canaanites and their tribute-service :** Consider (1) Deut. 20 : 16, 17 ; 7 : 2 ; 3 : 6, and note the promise of and command for their extermination ; (2) Judg. 2 : 3, the revocation of the promise ; (3) Josh. 16 : 10 ; 17 : 13 ; Judg. 1 : 28, 30, 33, 35, the tribute-service of the Canaanites ; (4) 1 Kgs. 9 : 15, 20-22, treatment of the Canaanites by Solomon ; (5) some facts about this tribute-service gathered from 1 Kgs. 5 : 13-18 (cf. Exod. 1 : 11 ; Gen. 49 : 15) ; 1 Kgs. 4 : 6 ; 12 : 18.
3. **Solomon's Revenues :** Gather the facts, e. g., (1) 1 Kgs. 10 : 14 ; 2 Chron. 9 : 13, as to amount ; (2) 1 Kgs. 4 : 21 ; 10 : 23-25 (10 : 1-10, 13) ; 10 : 15b, as to the various kinds ; (3) 4 : 7-28, as to levies ; (4) from tribute-service (see above) ; (5) what other sources ?
4. **Solomon's Commerce :** Consider (1) 10 : 15 in reference to "chapmen," (2) 10 : 28, 29 (2 Chron. 1 : 16, 17 ; 9 : 28) in reference to the horse and chariot trade ; (3) 5 : 6, 8-12 ; 9 : 11-14, trade in building materials and skilled labor ; (4) 9 : 26-28 ; 10 : 11, 12, 22, in reference to voyages ; (5) the meaning of "Tarshish-ships" (cf. 1 Kgs. 9 : 28 with 2 Chron. 8 : 18) ; (6) the probability of any overland trade (cf. 9 : 18).
5. **Solomon's Wisdom :** Read (1) 10 : 23, 24 ; 11 : 41 ; 5 : 7, 12 ; Neh. 13 : 26 concerning its greatness ; (2) 4 : 29, 34, concerning the nature of it ; (3) 10 : 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 concerning his ability to deal with hard questions ; (4) 3 : 9, 11, 12, 28 ; 2 : 6, 9, the practical and, to some extent, spiritual character of this wisdom ; (5) 11 : 3-9, as to the general failure of his life in spite of the wisdom.
6. **Solomon's Family :** (1) Read 3 : 1 ; 7 : 8 ; 9 : 16, 24 ; 11 : 1, about Pharaoh's daughter ; (2) 11 : 1, 2, about other foreign wives ; (3) 14 : 21, 31 ; 11 : 1, 5, about Rehoboam's daughter ; (4) 11 : 3, for the total number of wives ; (5) what was the purpose in all this ? (6) 4 : 11, 15, his daughter.
7. **Solomon's Age at Accession :** This is a very unsettled question ; full discussions will be found in the literature referred to at the beginning of the "study."

Fourth Step : Classification.

In the light of work done thus far, take up still again the chapters of the lesson and classify the material, which is found, under the following heads : (1) Names of important persons ; (2) names of important places ; (3) important events ; (4) important sayings ; (5) miraculous events ; (6) literary data ; (7) chronological data ; (8) customs and institutions ; (9) historical allusions.

Fifth Step : Organisation.

Under the head *Solomon's reign*, prepare a statement containing not more than three hundred words which shall embody the chief facts as recorded in the narrative (not including the account of the Temple).

Sixth Step : Religious Teaching.

Consider Solomon's life and reign, and from a study of it find *six teachings* applicable to modern times. It would be easy for the writer to indicate these ; it would be just as easy for you, after having read, to forget them. If you will think them out for yourself, and this you can do in a few minutes, they will be your own, and of far more value than any which might be suggested by another.